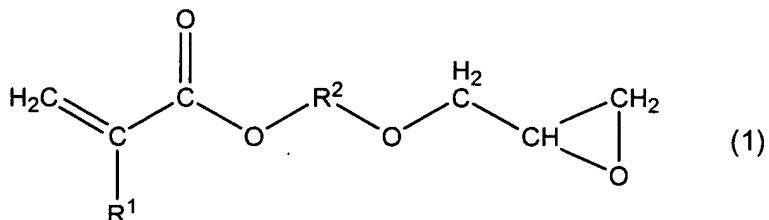


WE CLAIM:

1. A photosensitive resin composition characterized by comprising

a poly((meth)acrylic acid)-based water-soluble photosensitive resin (A) having an acid value of 150 mgKOH/g or more on a solid basis;

the resin (A) being formed of a ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer in which a compound represented by formula (1):



(wherein R^1 represents H or Me; and R^2 represents a linear or branched C₂-C₁₀ alkylene group) has been added to portions of the carboxylic groups,

a photopolymerization initiator (B); and water (C).

2. A photosensitive resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the carboxyl groups of the ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer to which the compound represented by formula (1) has not been added are at least partially neutralized with an alkali.

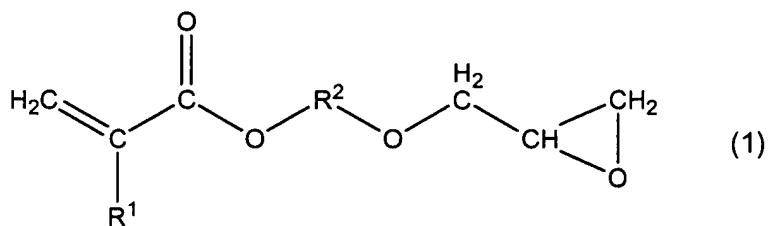
3. A method for forming a hydrogel characterized by comprising subjecting a photosensitive resin composition as recited in claim 1 or 2 to photopolymerization.

2. (original) A photosensitive resin composition

according to claim 1, wherein the carboxyl groups of the ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer to which the compound represented by formula (1) has not been added are at least partially neutralized with an alkali.

3. A method for forming a hydrogel characterized by comprising subjecting a photosensitive resin composition as recited in claim 1 or 2 to photopolymerization.

4. A hydrogel characterized by being produced by causing a photosensitive resin composition to photopolymerize, the photosensitive resin composition comprising a poly((meth)acrylic acid)-based water-soluble photosensitive resin (A) having an acid value of at least about 170 mgKOH/g on a solid basis; the resin (A) being formed of a ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer in which a compound represented by formula (1):



(wherein R¹ represents H or Me; and R² represents a liner or branched C2-C10 alkylene group) has been added to portions of the carboxylic groups,

a photopolymerization initiator (B); and water (C).

5. A hydrogel according to claim 4, wherein the carboxyl groups of the ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer to which the compound represented by formula (1) has not been added are partially or entirely neutralized with an alkali.